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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
08/919,670	08/28/1997	HIROSHI AKIZUKI	SANYO-74	7668

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EXAMINER

TILLERY, RASHAWN N

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2612

DATE MAILED: 05/30/2003

20

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

08/919,670

Applicant(s)

AKIZUKI ET AL.

Examiner

Rashawn N Tillery

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 August 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 14-15.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

Because the Examiner's Answer (mailed 4/23/02) improperly included rejections based on a new grounds of rejection, the following Office action is made Non-Final.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as revised by the AIPA and H.R. 2215, applies to all qualifying references, except when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. For such patents, the prior art date is determined under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as it existed prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)).

1. Claims 1-2, 5, 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Anderson et al (US5963255).

Regarding claims 1 and 7, Anderson discloses an electronic camera comprising:

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a signal processing portion (16; see col. 3, lines 53-60 and col. 4, lines 1-10; also see figure 1) for processing an imaged video signal obtained from an imaging element to form image data;

a monitor (18, see figure 4; also see col. 7, lines 1-5) for displaying the image data;

an electronic flash device (66, see figure 2);

a battery (17, see figure 1; 74, see figure 3) for supplying voltage to the signal processing portion, the monitor and the electronic flash device (see col. 5, lines 29-42);

a battery voltage detector circuit (76, see figure 3; also see col. 5, lines 59-65);

a system controller (17, 20, see figure 1; also see col. 5, lines 54-57); wherein:

the electronic flash device includes a capacitor (see col. 5, lines 10-28) charged when no light is emitted from the flash device (see col. 7, lines 32-34; also see col. 2, lines 11-23 where the bounce effect is discussed), and a discharge tube which receives an output from capacitor and, in response thereto, emits light.

Anderson teaches a method for managing power consumption of the camera known as a "bounce effect." In this method, the camera goes through different "power states (see col. 7, lines 23-46, specifically states 3 and 4)" while maintaining main camera functions- image capture and display. The power states allow for conservation of energy by shutting down various power draining devices such as flash unit. As shown in figures 7A and 7B, the camera is also capable of re-activating these power draining devices at a reduced power charging mode (see col. 8, lines 58-64; also see col. 5, lines 20-28). Thus, since Anderson discloses that the camera may still capture

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additional images after the flash unit is shut off, and there is no mention of shutting off power to the display, the Examiner is of the opinion that Anderson's camera would include recording and displaying before charging the flash unit.

In addition Anderson discloses the system controller receives an output from the battery voltage detector circuit, determines whether an amount of electric charge remaining in the battery is below a predetermined value (see col. 7, lines 50-59), and controls displaying on the monitor and charging of the capacitor such that, when the amount of electric charge remaining in the battery is below the predetermined value, display of the image data and charging of the capacitor are not simultaneously performed (see col. 10, lines 29-60) and an operation of displaying the image data on the monitor and recording the image data on a recording medium is completed before an operation of charging the capacitor occurs so that the image data will be preserved on the medium should the battery voltage (see col. 7, lines 1-7 and lines 32-37), as a result of the charging operation, decrease below a level at which the camera would record the image (see col. 8, lines 1-51), wherein the image data is displayed on the monitor after the image has been recorded but before the capacitor has begun charging such that, through display of the image data, a user is informed that the image data had been recorded on the medium (see col. 9, line 62-67 and col. 10, lines 1-18).

Regarding claim 2, see claim 1 above. In addition, Anderson discloses the minimum safe operating level is 5.2 volts and a shut down sequence doesn't occur until the power level falls below the minimum. Thus, charging the capacitor and display could be performed when the power in the battery is at least the predetermined value

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(see col. 5, lines 43-48; also see col. 7, lines 23-32 and 40-46; also see col. 8, lines 14-17).

Regarding claim 5, see claim 1 above.

Regarding claim 8, see claim 1 above. In addition, Anderson discloses the minimum safe operating level is 5.2 volts and a shut down sequence doesn't occur until the power level falls below the minimum. Thus, charging the capacitor and display could be performed when the power in the battery is at least the predetermined value (see col. 5, lines 43-48; also see col. 7, lines 23-32 and 40-46; also see col. 8, lines 14-17).

Regarding claim 9, see claims 1 and 3 above.

Regarding claim 10, see claims 1 and 9 above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 3-4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson et al.

Regarding claim 3, Anderson fails to specifically disclose the predetermined value is half the value of the full amount of electric charge stored in the battery.

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However, the Examiner asserts that Anderson discloses the claimed invention with the exception of this limitation and it appears the invention would work equally as well without specifying the threshold value is half of the battery maximum voltage level.

Regarding claim 4, see claims 3 and 1 above; also see col. 5, lines 45-48 and col. 6, lines 1-5.

Regarding claim 6, Anderson's signal processor (16) contains a memory and digital signal processor. However, it is notoriously well known in the art that a camera system could incorporate two processors (digital and analog) to process image signals as they are output from the imager initially and then digitally process them later for digital transmission or for use in external digital equipment connected to the camera. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate two processors in a camera system to expand the external use of the image signal (digital broadcast, conferencing, recreational image manipulation (photo software) by computers, etc.).

2. Claims 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson et al in view of Kare et al (US5541656).

Regarding claim 11, see claim 1 above. In addition, as discussed above, Anderson discloses preventing complete charging of the capacitor and displaying an image simultaneously when the charge level is below a predetermined value. Kare supports completing the charging of the capacitor before imaging can occur. Thus, both Anderson and Kare disclose preventing charging of the capacitor and displaying an image simultaneously when the charge level is below a predetermined value. They also

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teach charging the flash completely before starting the imaging cycle. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to control the monitor to be inoperative while a capacitor is charging after recording image data on a recording medium and reproducing recorded data, since Anderson teaches shutting off the flash to conserve energy when recording and displaying and Kare further illustrates charging and any imaging related function should occur sequentially (one at a time; or one after the other). Therefore, the system would prevent the power source from heavily loaded periods of use which cause the camera system to increase the longevity of the battery/power source usage.

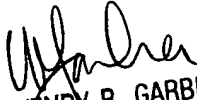
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rashawn N Tillery whose telephone number is 703-305-0627. The examiner can normally be reached on 9AM-6:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy Garber can be reached on 703-305-4929. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9314 for regular communications and 703-872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-4750.

RNT
December 2, 2002


WENDY R. GARBER
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